

GEORGE E. SIMMONS

George E. Simmons was a native of England, and accepted the message of Mormonism there. His first wife was Charity Waller, and she bore him 11 children. He later married Dora Turner, and she bore him 11 children, the last of whom was stillborn.

George and Dora Simmons were baptized into the LDS Church together, and immediately made plans to come to Utah. George hired out to take care of horses, and would work nights chopping hay and mixing grain for horse feed to get extra funds.

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So fervent was he in his testimony of the gospel that he would go with a companion who played a trumpet and while the companion attracted crowds he would preach the gospel to all who would listen.

George and Dora came to Utah in 1876, sailing on the steam ship Lusitania, which sank on its return voyage. They reached Utah in 1876 and went first to Bountiful and then settled in Charleston. A brother-in-law gave George a cow that had been injured, and he nursed it back to health, and eventually was able to sell the cow for a homestead payment. He built a home on the land and here he and his wife reared their children. For many years George raised seed peas and sold them on the Utah market.

At one time he was in the Lake Creek area with his sons hauling timber when the brake on the wagon gave way. The horses ran, and threw George off, disabling him for life. He died in May, 1902 at the age of 74.

Children by his first wife Charity included Elizabeth, Fanny, Joseph, Jesse, Sarah Ann, Ellen, Charity, George, Mary Jane, Harriet and Carolyn (twins).

Children by his second wife, Dora, included Rose, Dora Alice, Joseph Benjamin, John William, Maud Bell, Lilly May, Stephen Andrew, Miriam Bertha, Roy and Jabez (twins) and Phyllis, stillborn.

ESTHER HUNSAKER WAGSTAFF

Esther Hunsaker Wagstaff was born February 20, 1868 at Brigham City. Daughter of Abraham and Katherine Jensen Hunsaker. Married Alma Wagstaff in 1890.

Esther was one of a very large family, as her father had several wives. She had very good training as a child, attended school in Brigham City and Honeysville, but

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

most of her schooling was in the practical things of life such as cooking, sewing, soap making, knitting, etc. At the age of fifteen she was called to Salt Lake City to study obstetrics under Dr. Ellis Shipp. She spent two years attending school and practicing obstetrics along with her teacher. She paid her a wonderful tribute by saying of all her pupils she thought Esther to be the most successful.

At the age of twenty-two she was married to Alma Wagstaff of Mendon, where her first child was born. After moving to Honeysville and Park City, they moved to Charleston, where eight more children were born to them. She still continued her profession, calling on her husband and friends to help out at home.

Besides taking care of the sick she worked in the church. First she was President of the YLMA. Later she served as counselor in the Relief Society.

About 1910 she moved into the Uintah Basin where they homesteaded a ranch on the Duchesne river about eight miles below Tabiona.

As she was the only person in that part of the country that had any training in the care of the sick, she had to be their doctor and nurse and sometimes help with the housework besides.

Her main work was the practice of obstetrics, but in any emergency she was called, even though a skilled physician was needed. If a death occurred she would help lay out the body and her husband would build the casket and she would help cover it and make the burial clothes.

Since 1905, when the state began to register births, she had brought around 2500 babies into the world, and many hundreds before that time.

She always said she had not left any heirlooms or anything to be remembered by, but the work she did was far greater, as she left living souls.

She was the mother of 10 children: Claude, Ida and Ada (twins), four who died at birth, one who died at eight months, Orpha and Dermont.

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